OCCUPY SYDNEY Zine

Issue 6
25/05/12

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Submitted by Liam Kesteven

Welcome

Welcome to our sixth issue of Occupy Sydney Zine!

If you are running your own Occupy Event or maintaining your own Occupation please let us know about it. Send photos, report backs & event details to OccupySydneyZine@gmail.com

Love to chat with you on Occupy Friday about the Zine. Please let me know your feedback for past issues and ideas for the Zine's future, or just join in with Eva's knitting circle.

This is *your* platform to share & show what Occupy Sydney means to you. The submissions in this zine are the opinions of individual Occupiers. All copy rights & ownership remain with these individuals.

Please feel welcome to contribute & add *your* voice & views.

It is only when we share in the commons do we bond as a community, so let us all share in the commons of the people's media & discover what we can create together.

Online version & back issues http://www.scribd.com/occupysydneyzine

If you would like an emailed copy put "Subscription" in the subject heading and email OccupySydneyZine@gmail.com

A big thank you to Liam, Pathi, Katie, Nicky, Shelly, Hugo, Rossie, Maloë & Sean for your articles, reports, poems, photos, images & feedback. I am so very grateful to work on this project with your talents!

Much Love & Support xx Bern

Your Submissions & Feedback

Please put "Submission" or "Feedback" in the subject heading & submit your contributions by Wednesdays to OccupySydneyZine@gmail.com

so it can be ready for printing by Occupy Fridays

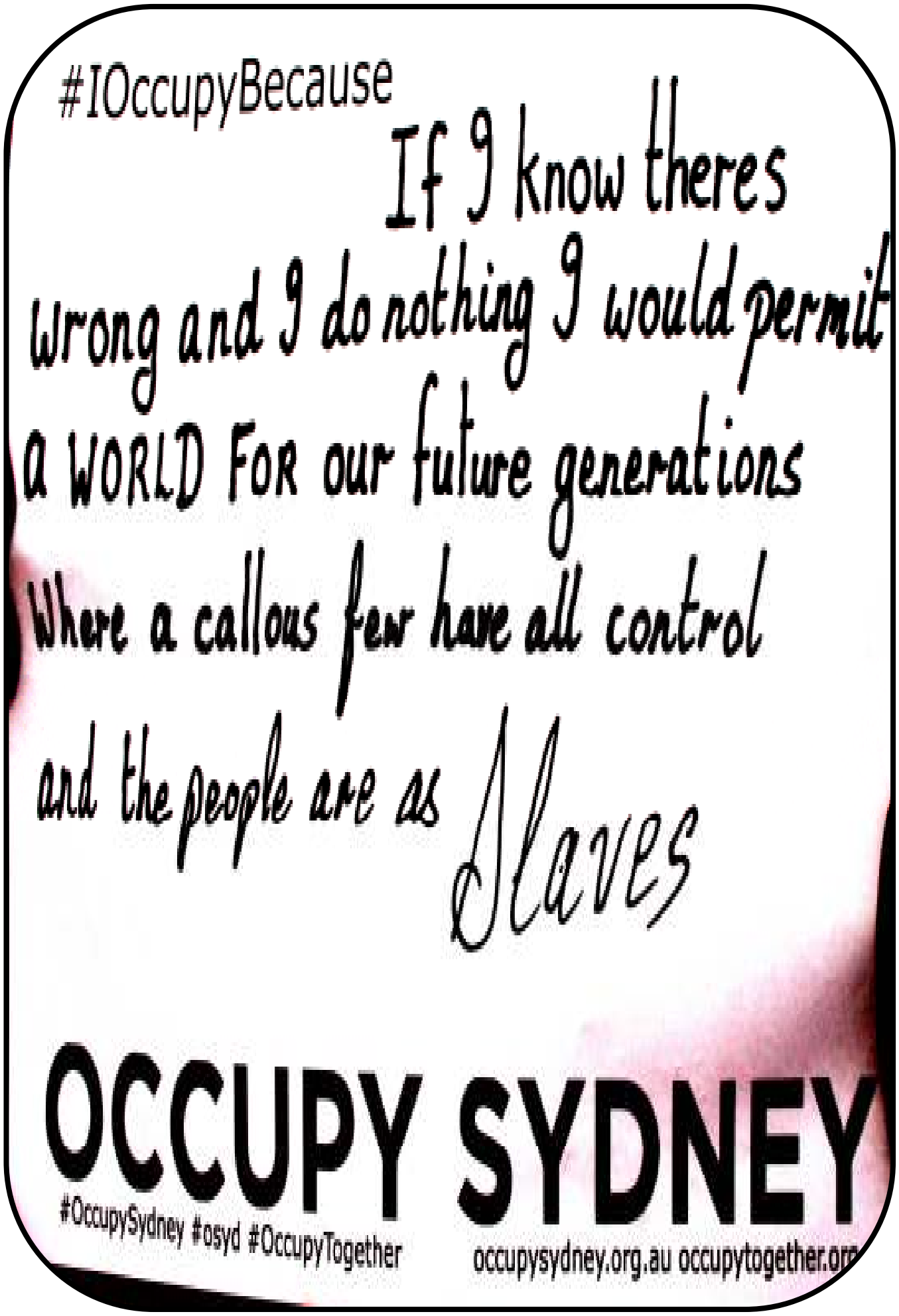

#IOccupyBecause
If I know theres
wrong and I do nothing I would permit
a WORLD For our future generations
where a callous few have all control
and the people are as Slaves
OCCUPY SYDNEY
#OccupySydney #osyd #OccupyTogether
occupysydney.org.au occupytogether.org

Photo from messagesofsupport.tumblr.com by Bern Ellis

Media Release on

Posted by Liam
from OccupySydney.org.au

Sovereign Embassies & Police Brutality

Indigenous Social Justice Association

On Friday 25th 2012 we will be holding a supporting rally for our Brothers and Sisters who were evicted by force out of their Sovereign Embassies in Perth and in Brisbane. They were peacefully camped on their Traditional Lands and holding constructive talks about what action would be required to have the relevant State Governments to accept their right to locate a permanent Sovereign Embassy on their own Lands, among other rights.

That Right has been accepted and won for the Tent Embassy in the ACT and it is our view that there must be granted by State and Territory Governments that permanent Sovereign Embassies be located in each capital city and/or any other designated location as chosen by the Traditional Owners. This is our Right on our invaded Lands. Always was, always will be, Aboriginal Land.

Instead our Mobs were faced with the same intractable violence from the State and their police forces.

On Herrison Island in Perth the peaceful Nyoongar campers were faced with Council Rangers and many many police. One media report stated:

“Riot squad police armed with Tasers and officers on horseback moved into the camp as Perth City Council rangers dismantled tents and moved equipment this afternoon.

The four people were arrested on charges including obstruct police, refusing to provide details and disorderly conduct. One move on notice was also issued and protest signs and other items were seized by council staff and police.

Three police vans with metal shields over the windows arrived at the camp just after 2pm followed by a half a dozen other police vehicles and four officers on horses. More police arrived about 20 minutes later.

Officers formed one long line and moved through the camp."

This extreme and over-zealous reply is, of course, nothing new to our people. These hate campaigns against us have continued for over 224 years and will continue until we are fully recognised as being Sovereign Peoples and equal to the invader-Governments of the Stolen Lands.

The situation at Musgrave Park in Brisbane was equally as violent when police moved in to dismantle the peaceful Jagera and Turrbal Nations from their Sovereign Embassy. Such was the concern raised at the actions of the Qld. Police that the ACTU Congress issued the following Resolution.

"The ACTU Congress stands in solidarity with the unionists and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activists at the culturally significant site at Musgrave Park – Brisbane, QLD.

Congress expresses its concern about the apparent return to negative tactics used by the Queensland Government in the 1970's and 1980's against citizens of Queensland.

Campbell Newman has been elected to govern for all Queenslanders, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, and this Congress calls on the Newman Government and the BCC to respect the rights of freedom of speech, peaceful assembly and protest."

Mover: Dave Matters Union: RTBU QLD
Seconder: Allen Hicks Union: ETU

It is perhaps ironic that Friday 25th 2012 will also be the 45th Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum, an action that was fought for over a ten year period to obtain Justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. We won the battle, maybe, but definitely not the war. That sadly still continues as exampled above.
Come join us to show not only solidarity with our Mobs but also to show that you fully support our unalienable rights to our Lands.

12.30pm outside Parliament House Macquarie Street Sydney on Friday 25th May 2012.

Contact Ray Jackson on 0450 651 063 or Raul Bassi on 0403 037 376

OccupySydneyZine@gmail.com

Mainstream Media IGNORES Iceland Revolution

ICELAND - No news from Iceland?… why? How come we hear everything that happens in Egypt but no news about what's happening in Iceland?

In Iceland, the people have made the government resign, the primary banks have been nationalized, it was decided to not pay the debt that these created with Great Britain and Holland due to their bad financial politics and a public assembly has been created to rewrite the constitution.

And all of this in a peaceful way. A whole revolution against the powers that have created the current global crisis. This is why there hasn't been any publicity during the last two years: What would happen if the rest of the EU citizens took this as an example? What would happen if the US citizens took this as an example?

This is a summary of the facts:

> 2008. The main bank of the country is nationalized.
> The Krona, the currency of Iceland devaluates and the stock market stops. The country is in bankruptcy
>
> 2009. The citizens protest in front of parliament and manage to get new elections that make the resignation of the prime minister and his whole government.
> The country is in bad economic situation.
> A law proposes paying back the debt to Great Britain and Holland through the payment of 3,500 million euros, which will be paid by the people of Iceland monthly during the next 15 years, with a 5.5% interest.
>
> 2010. The people go out in the streets and demand a referendum. In January 2010 the president denies the approval and announces a popular meeting.

In March the referendum and the denial of payment is voted in by 93%. Meanwhile the government has initiated an investigation to bring to justice those responsible for the crisis, and many high level executives and bankers are arrested. The Interpol dictates an order that make all the implicated parties leave the country.

In this crisis an assembly is elected to rewrite a new Constitution which can include the lessons learned from this, and which will substitute the current one (a copy of the Danish Constitution).

25 citizens are chosen, with no political affiliation, out of the 522 candidates. For candidacy all that was needed was to be an adult and have the support of 30 people. The constitutional assembly starts in February of 2011 to present the 'carta magna' from the recommendations given by the different assemblies happening throughout the country. It must be approved by the current Parliament and by the one constituted through the next legislative elections.

So in summary of the Icelandic revolution:

> -resignation of the whole government
> -nationalization of the bank.
> -referendum so that the people can decide over the economic decisions.
> -incarcerating the responsible parties
> -rewriting of the constitution by its people

Have we been informed of this through the media? Has any political program in radio or TV commented on this? No! The Icelandic people have been able to show that there is a way to beat the system and has given a democracy lesson to the world!

from http://www.in5d.com/mainstream-media-ignores-iceland-revolution.html

Submitted by Hugo

Tents & Free School: unzipping the layers to Occupy´s future

Unzip the outer layer of a tent and take a look inside. You´ll see sleeping bags, some nuts, a thick book hardly thumbed and, perhaps, a weary face closed in on itself. Don´t make a sound. Turn back around and look out. This is your tent. Take a look at where you are.

Embracing a tent is a journey in itself, it´s the great outdoors, or at least its possibility, or maybe just a visit to the backyard, but when you look out, what do you see? Is it a wilderness, shrubs, the sound of rocks and twigs; or is it the harsh, firm exterior of city buildings, of sharp lights and a gust that knocks the tent´s canvas from your hands? Whatever you see, it´s yours. This tent is yours. Simply, it´s you. But wipe that image from your mind a moment and consider why a tent might be important to Occupy.

We can be proud of *our* tents. They are little monsters! They´re a symbol of our rebellion. At the same time, it´s paradoxical to raise a tent in the city. If we want to liberate ourselves from the materialities and hierarchies of urban life, shouldn´t we get out of the city? We have all scratched our heads at some point wondering if it´s simply better to be done with this city, like any other city, and see the best of life on the outside. Why, then, combine a tent with protest at all, at least one in the city, where we have homes and shelters better suited to the environment? Perhaps the answer is we want to enjoy our autonomy, we want to be visible and we need to defend both autonomy and self!

Tents in a city offer something naturists might never understand: it is a means to shelter from the complete invasion of city life. *Unzip the outer layer of a tent.* Anybody who has participated on-site at Occupy at Martin Place will know that the constant agitation of the elements with sound and light can utterly exhaust you. *Take a look inside.* It´s hard enough communicating with those who oppose you, try doing so with your tongue tied from fatigue and half an eye on the pool of water that weasels its way to your things. It´s your book, remember, and your sleeping bag. We need to rest, we need to lie down and we need to continue to dream our stories.

But the recent actions of the Police in quashing the Aboriginal tent embassy in Musgrave Park have reignited concerns that any future tented occupation will only draw further reprisals from the authorities. The Occupy movement is fragile, many are trying to recuperate, and it seems difficult to see how tents, as formidable as they are as refuges,

can respond to the many trials of Police law. Even without a tent you can feel what its vulnerability is like, just touch your skin and rub it and feel it around you. Nobody wants to be pushed around. No tent is fierce enough to withstand all conditions! Given this, isn´t it more sensible to leave the tent in its bag? *Turn back and look around you.* Nevertheless, facilitators at this Saturday´s Free School believe tents do offer advantages to the Occupy movement and activists in general. They say, unzip the outer layer and take a look in.

Tents have played a role in past protest movements around the world because they do more than give people the space to change their pants privately; they´re a place for groups to build communities. This Saturday´s workshops see the creation of a tented occupation as a chance to build a long-lasting space for discussion, and an environment for current and new activists to learn and act. We came together at Occupy because we were tired of fighting on our own. We´ve learnt to resonate with others and we aren´t alone. A tented occupation reasons that we can return to some of the joys of the early occupation, a secure place to eat and sleep, to entertain kids and creatively express ourselves. If we´ve learnt anything from these past few months it´s that we can resonate with others, together; that there are more concerned people than we imagined. Hence, we do need to come together, and have a space. But the lasting question is, what is the Occupy community and what does it need? These are things to consider along with the question of whether we need a tented occupation.

This Saturday´s workshop doesn´t deny that there is not a clear answer in regards to tents and a tented occupation. But remember, tents may not necessarily alter or subvert the current arrangement at Martin Place. The question is how it might offer a supporting role to occupiers and activists. Whatever its role, the community has to decide. Tents and lamps, mats and thick story books will sit nervously and wait. A general workshop will begin at 1.30 to discuss the different factors to consider before any future tented occupation. Following this workshop, people will have the chance to nut out the logistics of a tented occupation and/or search for alternative actions to protest our autonomy in our future.

Beware of the tents! Beware of yourselves! Unzip and explore!

Free School: Saturday 26 May

The role of a tented occupation in Occupy´s future

Martin Place upper plaza

1.30 pm

Submitted by Pathi

Feedback

Thanks for all the articles on GMO crops. (Issue 5)

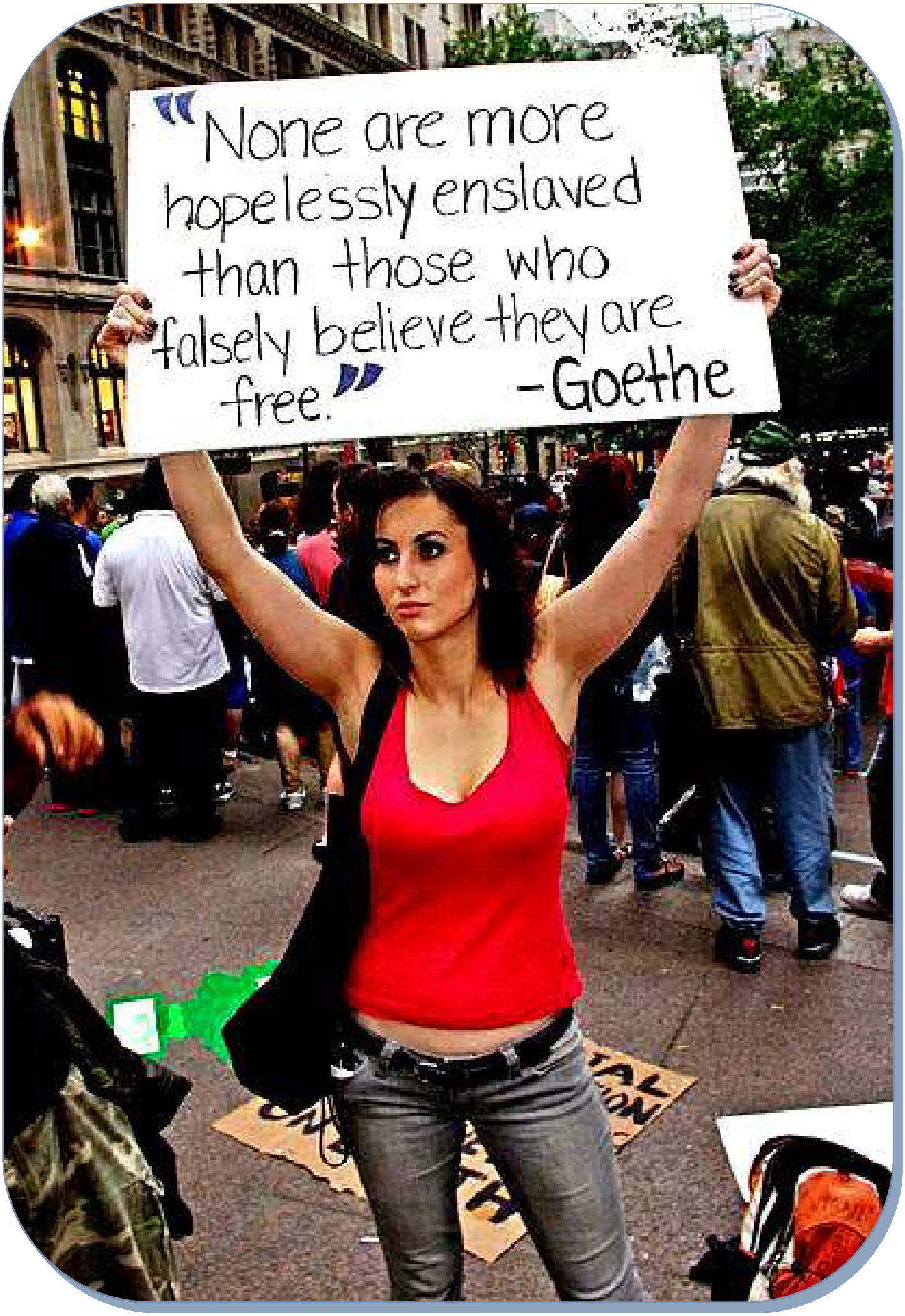
Also something that has shocked me recently is how much the CSIRO are 'in bed' with Monsanto. http://permaculture.org.au/2011/07/15/csiro-in-bed-with-multinational-corporations/ .

> The corporations listed by Hindmarsh as having direct financial connections with CSIRO include: Agrigenetics, Monsanto, Rhone Poulenc and AgrEvo (later part of Aventis and then Bayer). A collaboration between the CSIRO and Monsanto generated Australia's first major GM commercial crop. On the day of the announcement of the commercial approval for Bayer's GM canola (oilseed rape) in Australia, CSIRO announced that Bayer would be extending its lucrative investment in CSIRO 'to develop modern biotechnology tools applicable to cotton and other crops'. The press release said, ' For Bayer CropScience, the alliance with CSIRO is regarded as a model for global cooperation.'

As the article shows GMO food is being pushed through by the biotech tech corporations but using CSIRO as an umbrella organization. The Australia public have trust in CSIRO so this is a very manipulative agenda. Australia is the first place in the world earmarked to commercially grow GM Wheat. When CSIRO board agreed to do this there were two people on the board that worked for Nufarm, a distributor for Monsanto. This is stated in this article: http://www.greenleft.org.au/node/48234

> The raid was conducted in relation to an "alleged trespass and property damage" on July 14, when Greenpeace activists in Hazmat suits used whipper-snippers to destroy a CSIRO trial of genetically modified (GM) wheat being grown in Canberra's north.
>
> Greenpeace claimed that the wheat was planned for secret human trials and had already caused allergic reactions in mice.
>
> The CSIRO said the wheat was not transgenic (that is, it had no genes transferred from another species). It said the wheat genes had been slightly modified to lower the glycaemic index and increase fibre to improve bowel health and nutritional value.
>
> Greenpeace also accused the CSIRO of a conflict of interest because two directors of Nufarm — the exclusive distributor for biotech giant Monsanto in Australia — sat on the CSIRO board when the wheat trial was approved.

Submitted by Nicky



Submitted by Liam Kesteven

2GB reject right of reply from Occupy Sydney

Posted by Katie from OccupySydney.org.au

2GB Ray Hadley Show segment "Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner & Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione on Occupy Participant found Not Guilty by Court."

(http://podcasts.mrn.com.au.s3.amazonaws.com/rayhadley/20120518-occupy2.mp3)

In relation to the above mentioned case, Occupy Sydney wishes to highlight a grave misrepresentation of Facts by The Ray Hadley Show and the featured participants on a mainstream Radio Station with considerable influence in some community demographics.

Last Friday Ray Hadley featured a story based on the Thursday Court appearance of Lance Priestley, an occupy Sydney participant. Lance was found not guilty of "staying overnight" x 2 charges and "intimidate police" x 1 charge, with all charges arising from his participation in the Occupy Sydney movement.

The case involved an evidential hearing with multiple Police witnesses and the defendant choosing to give evidence alone for the defence. The Judge ruled in favour of the defendant as much on the basis of the evidence submitted by police as that submitted by the defendant.

The Ray Hadley Show host Mr Hadley and his guests Messrs Scipione and Stoner relied on the Police "Fact Sheets" (a summary document outlining the brief case put by police. The Fact sheet does not contain even the full Police Evidence offered, let alone the defence arguments. A full transcript of the evidential hearing presenting the full body of evidence upon which the case was decided is available from The Downing Centre Court Registrar.

The Ray Hadley Show made no attempt to give balance to what was in effect a skewed advertorial for the Politically motivated desires of the Assistant Premier and the operational playing field sought by the Police Commissioner. Requests for a right of reply by Occupy Sydney and the defendant directly to the show producer have been ignored.

The Assistant Premier's comments, made without reference to the full facts, draw attention to the need to continue to maintain separation between the Judicial Policing and Political aspects of Government . One might take the view that the Deputy Premier and Police Commissioner seek in making their public statements to in some way influence future Judicial interpretations of law. If this is the case it amounts to an attempt to pervert the course of justice or a contempt of court rather than enhancement of the law.

The Assistant Commissioners Statements taken in their entirety amount to an unwarranted and expedient partisan attack on the character, ability, and impartiality of the magistrate who heard the case. As with Occupy Sydney, the defendant, and her honour or appropriate representatives have not been given the opportunity to reply.

Media contacts:

Vicki Smart 0447 842 547 / Defendant in above case contactable on 0410 722 000

Upcoming Events

Free School:

Saturday 26 May

The

role of

A tented

Occupation in

Occupy´s future

Martin Place upper plaza

1.30 pm

Prepare a Future of Free School: A Piece of Cake

by Rossie Wong, (12 May 2012)

Text message dialogue

8.33am, Rosie to Karina and Frank: Buenos dias! A bag of flour on the way would be awesome. Also, if u have from the dumpster some fruits other than pear, thanks compas

8.50am, Karina to Rosie: Hey, will b a bit late. Maybe u should start the liquids or make one gluten free. I know that we have that flour. Leaving now.

8.54am, Rosie to Karina: Cool.

In the kitchen..

So it began, at the home of Karina and Rosie, with Rosie smashing some pears, mixing some oil and sugar and vanilla essence, threw in some flour, oiled a pan, put the first cake in the oven..

Karina and Frank saved the day on their grand arrival with a bag of flour. Karina began mixing ingredients for the second cake while Frank juiced an apple and carrot for it.

Rohan, our neighbourly rockstar, rocked up, we were all saved from the challenges of multitasking. And challenged also by his decision to use avocado and green tomatoes as the secret ingredient, but this was his cake and his autonomy was respected. He also wanted to shift the flour to make the cake consistent, something important to him, Karina helped him by locating a tea drainer, but in the end that took more time than we had patience, and that was that.

Not everyone had patience to wait for the cooking to finish either, Rohan and Karina did good jobs of making sure they did not burn while Frank and Rosie ran off with other fiddly things..

Our histories of cake baking are different. Frank seems to have always known, while Rosie shared with Karina and Rohan a recipe learned from a dear friend who makes amazing cakes, and the importance of mixing liquids first.

At some point, they quarrelled about who was the grown up(s) and probably got to the obvious conclusion.. and there we have it, three beautiful vegan cakes to feed everyone of free school... although Pathi was disappointed we used sugar (he still had a piece :-)).

Free school had been kind of like baking a couple of cakes.. people have different ideas about what kind of cakes they want to make, how to do it, personal philosophies about baking, which can involve skillshares and collaboration, there doesn´t have to be just one cake, it can be baked in a kitchen where everyone´s welcome to join or there can be other cakes baked in other kitchens, and in the end unless you forget to take it off the heated oven you have something you can slice up and share. These cakes were rectangular though and we sat around in something more like a circle the day.

So in this circle on this day:

People nominated particular areas where they would like to be involved

Participants highlighted visions they had for free school

As a group, participants drew upon areas that could be improved in the future

People spoke of ideas about workshop structures

We also hinted at outside influences - noise, cold..

Just as cake making can be participative, free school too, does not belong to the ´organisers´ but to everybody who is part of it. Anyone can be involved in any part of the cake making process to make all different kinds of cakes and in different kitchens collectively and on your own, the opportunity is now to do something specific, something different, something that feels right for you.

Previously, when we talked personally and in group the week before, our ideas and thoughts about changes to make to the baking of these free school cakes fell into the following categories:

Framework / ideals

- Relationship occupy/free school
- Numbers/quantity/quality – participation burnout including of organisers
- Pedagogical (popular education) – different styles and formats
- Culture – what we are used to and what we would like

Logistics

Geography

- staying here (addressing comfort)
- Going elsewhere – inside outside.

Demographics

- Who comes to freeschool – relationships with facilitators and participants
- Ideas for things we can do for supporting new people

Regularity

- Free school frequency
- Number of workshops in day/breaks

Communications

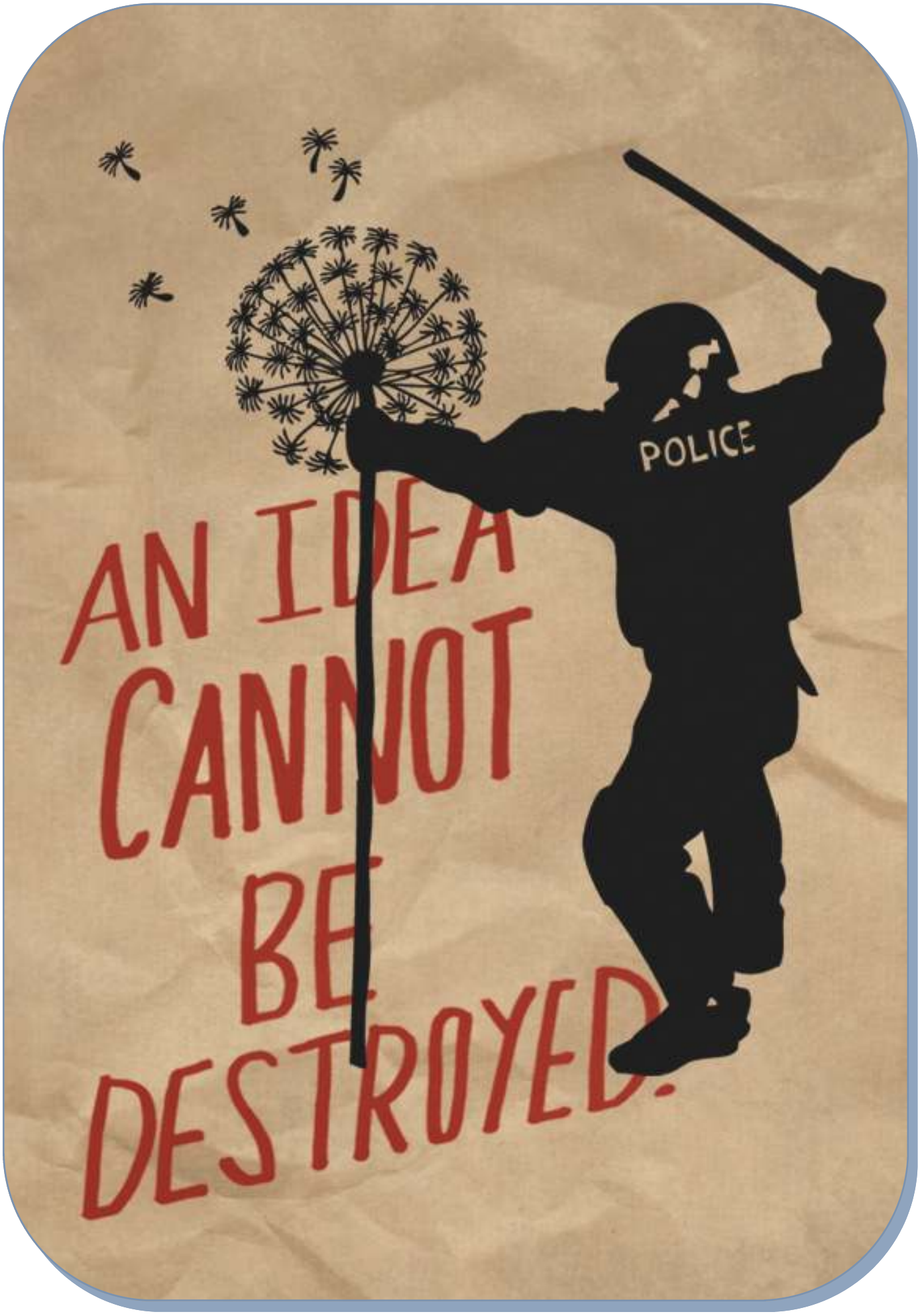
- think of ways to let people know what is on without pressure/outreach ideas
- Creating collective memory
- Autonomy to collaborate and coordinate with free school

Continued...

Want to see more on these ideas and thoughts and add more or act on some? Come and get to know and converse with this Free School book, newborn to the Occupy Sydney family.....

And just to de-mystify what free school organisers have been doing and show they are things anybody can do: here is the big secret - we make facebook events, invite friends, find cool images, make leaflets, talk to people interested in making workshops, send out emails, make a sign for the day, make food when we can, remind people who come to facilitate.

by Rossie Wong, (12 May 2012)



from Sean's twitter feed @**seanfitz**

The JLLLOW Home Journal's Guide to Keeping Cool and Not Losing Your Shit Whilst Trying to Change The World

Ah, activism. To the untrained ear and eye this word has long conjured imagery of hoary bongo-playing hygienically-challenged layabouts. Although there is a kernel of truth in every stereotype, only a fool or establishment shill would openly proclaim that this aforementioned type is the only kind of person who engages in activism…*man*.

The simple fact is that an activist is usually a regular person who has had enough of reading about, watching and hearing about injustice, corruption and twisted morality on a massive scale and has finally decided to do something about it. True activists know they can never be a hero or everything to everyone. The smartest ones have found a niche that best addresses what bothers them the most, and set about trying to enact change with a courageous zeal that money could never substitute. The only common drive that unites all activists is the effort to overcome apathy. It is precisely this kind of thought process and sense of empathy for others that those who abuse power fear the most.

Below is a simplistic and handy guide for navigating the psychological and physiological vagaries of activism in the 21st century. Most of it is not especially unique in import by any measure. It is however the kind of manual I wish someone had written for me about a year and a half ago.

1. **Sleep. Sleep. Sleep.** Not the zombie-esque decrease in consciousness you feel when strolling through a shopping mall. I mean serious slumber, the alpha-beta-theta wave kind that allows your body to renew cells. Why? Because being an activist demands input from every fibre of your being in a way that is not wholly apparent right from the beginning. Ask anyone who participates in activism and also has a family to raise, a demanding but spiritually unfulfilling day job or anything else that falls under the banner of Adult Responsibility. You will be tired all the time. So get some sleep, because it may boil down to a choice between: missing out on some semi-interesting online banter, or reaching the state where you're seeing your old best friend from Year Seven saying hi to you on the train…when the carriage is actually empty. Or perhaps something from *Naked Lunch*.

2. **Don't put shit into your body all the time.** Being busy ins't an excuse. "Coffee keeps me going until it's time to be drunk enough to go to sleep" is only a fleetingly enjoyable diet ethos. As with point 1, you'll inevitably reach a plateau of perma-exhuastion, so only *real* nutrients can keep you from becoming a bloated/frail/constipated/sweaty train wreck. Recreational drugs may provide occasional release but chronic use makes you become That Guy on Twitter. We all know one of those.

3. **Sense of humour**. I'm of the belief that few activists are genuinely humourless – if that were not true, that means we lack the humanity that is the basic essential requirement of giving a shit about the world around us. Most importantly, humour is your ultimate survival mechanism, one which allows you to ride the troughs of despair as well as the peak experiences. Do not be afraid of humour, it is your weapon and your tool, and one that always needs sharpening and refinement. As Leo Rosten said, "Satire is focused bitterness". The most difficult skill you will have to master is figuring out when you are crossing the line and becoming merely puerile for the sake of a laugh, or of your trolling, sarcasm and jokes are actually saying something deeper and making people think to themselves, "Fuck yeah that bitch is onto something there, man!" Also, creating memes is not only a necessary stress-relief strategy, it's a great way to create false noise that drains the resources of grossly over-funded internet surveillance programs. Nothing makes a mockery of OSINT (open source intelligence) like a good vajazzling meme.

4. **Despite Your Worst Fears, You Too Probably Have a Useful But Under-Utilised Talent.** Many people refrain from speaking up and participating in activism because they think they have nothing new or special to contribute to a cause. Effective activism does not only consist of gifted oration, eloquent writing, or being a wizard with code. You could have an artistic bent – working with your hands, or better-than-average skills in Photoshop. Perhaps you can wrangle *papier mache* or liquid latex like no other. You can be guaranteed that every successful street protest or social-networking campaign has worked well because people with highly varied skill-sets and expertise have come together to pull it off.

5. **Loneliness.** Particularly true for those who engage in activism only online, but just about every activist finds themselves in a period where they are "crossing the desert" in terms of their personal relationships. You will probably lose or alienate a few friends who do not understand or feel your passion. Be prepared for it and don't expect everyone to understand your cause or why it's important. Some of your friends and/or family will remain content to keep themselves smothered in an apolitical cocoon of quasi-comfortable security. That's *their* problem. Learn to compartmentalize your relationships for the sake of

your own sanity and safety. That said, don't refrain from talking to others about your cause – you will truly be surprised at how much people care about certain issues but never voice their opinion simply because no-one has ever engaged them about it in a social situation. Never feel embarrassed about giving a shit about something – we have all been conditioned to be comfortably numb by mass media and endless, pointless consumption. Many of us are unable to articulate why we feel so alienated because of this. If you have a chance to become someone's else's inspiration, never waste that chance.

Also, it's kinda awesome and somewhat lulzy watching your meekest of friends and relatives slowly become radicalised by your endless soapboxing.

6. **Paranoia**. Depending on your outlook, this can be hell or highly entertaining (also depending on who's got the paranoia). Some activists are worryingly blase about any kind of information security yet others sound like they survived COINTELPRO even though they grew up in Adelaide in the 1990s. A disproportionately high number of activists are often convinced there are feds under the bed – even if they are not doing anything remotely illegal. Of course, there are many places on Earth where peaceful democratic dissent can cost you your life. Paranoia about things like surveillance and infiltration of your networks (online and IRL) is much like the humour factor – subtlety and balance will get you a long way. Do seek out proper advice on how to secure your communications, preferably by a nice hacker friend, but assume everything is monitored – those trillions of national security dollars aren't being spent on filling jars with brown M&M's. Don't over-share the minutiae of your daily existence to your activist friends and don't expect them to do the same – the less everyone knows about each others' Adult Responsibilities, the better. Besides, activism does tend to become an escape from boring shit like that anyway. Best of all, jokes about feds are a great way to pass the time when you're being watched by one of them in a bar somewhere on a Saturday night. (Also see point 3).

7. **Don't Be a Broken Umbrella In a Shitstorm**. Many causes and activist movements feature a central charismatic figure that milder minions can rally around; other movements are more amorphous and decentralised. The problem in either framework is that you will inevitably face the expectation to defend someone else's shitty behaviour for the sake of the Greater Good of the Cause. In this way, activist movements often mirror the same sociology that powerful elites do. An activist collective forms naturally for a special purpose, yet every so often, an minor or major scandal will arise that threatens to tarnish everyone involved – and you will be expected to defend it, justify it, or play it down, because the cause is Bigger Than One Person. So what do you do? Hopefully you adhere to you own internal moral and ethical code – that's what got you into activism in the first place. You stand your ground and call bullshit when you see it – even if it means becoming temporarily unpopular. This is probably the hardest advice to heed, as activist politics tends to absorb and try bury certain unsavoury behaviours and viewpoints in order to survive. No-one can give you definitive advice on how to navigate the median between being principled and being one of the team. But if defending a fellow activist for something indefensible makes you feel like a dirty whore, or worse, a shill – don't do it. Life is too fucking short.

8. **Go Offline Once In a While.** It's usually the 'older' folk that will tell you this, and for good reason – they remember a life lived entirely offline. Particularly amongst activist movements that only convene online (which is just about the norm nowadays), there is a risk of becoming entrapped in an ideological bubble that can actually be disconnected from traditional knowledge and different ways of life. The problem with this is that as an activist, you tend to become a slave to the news cycle or worse, assume that everyone in the world must know and care about a recent particular event because all your fellow activists are going mad about it on the interwebs. Step back, take a break from the computer and smartphone, go see some nature or something. Most importantly, spend time in a library, reading real books. The skill of deep reading is vital for synthesizing information, critical thinking, and making well-formed arguments. Know your history. If you only read the news, you will miss out on the the context that is such a vital part of activism and you'll essentially remain the same as the herd animals you thought you were different from. Look at the most inspirational intellectual role models you have – all of them locked themselves away from mundane chatter to learn something deeper. It worked for them and it will work for you. Read things that make you angry. You will remember a seminal book for far longer than an adequately-written feature article.

9. **You will often question what is the fucking point of it all.** A deficiency or abundance of any or all of the above factors will make you start doubting yourself and your ability to affect change. In many ways, this is normal – if altruism was easy, everyone would be doing it. Remember was pisses you off about the world and never let those thoughts leave your back pocket.

10. Most importantly, don't forget to **have fun** and **fight the motherfucking POWER**.

by JLLLOW From http://21stcenturysamizdat.wordpress.com/2011/08/15/the-jlllow-home-journals-guide-to-keeping-cool-and-not-losing-your-shit-whilst-trying-to-change-the-world/

Occupy's empty bonnet...or basket...

I almost cried the first time the Police-bots stomped through the occupation. The soil left on the ground was the mascara that my tears smeared. They had demolished the garden. We were left with our occupation no more.

But the occupation returned, and the plants, and we continued to dream a better future. The resurrected occupation didn´t have a continuous kitchen but it did have a basket. A basket full of fruit.

Now, however, the weather is cool and the benches quiet. The poor fruit basket is empty.

I think about throwing it out.

But I pause.

I might get more fruit one day.

I huff, ´and I thought about throwing it out!´

The basket sits at present on my floor. I ridicule the choice as I constantly run into it. This basket, empty to the centre. Why should I bother myself when all I do is walk past it?

I hope I get more fruit one day!

I decide to sit down before the basket. It´s there, so I am, here: we´re..

I almost see a hole at the bottom. It´s a closed centre. If it weren´t, it´d be something else, a poor funnel, a hat. Pieces of basket turn around this centre and move outwards. But the basket looks so empty and my gaze needs something to hold...

And I have to stop thinking that I´ll buy fruit some day...

Something stirred. We all know that feeling at Occupy. I don´t believe the basket´s empty. This one might contain water for birds to drink, or an empty gaze (searching to understand what it sees). It might be the whirling night of Van Gogh. Or it might hold odd scraps of paper, chores I´m reluctant to do! Perhaps there´ll be a mighty message or moment of action.

I have to stop looking at it some time, but not without these thoughts. The basket could have held many things. At Occupy, it was hardly noticeable given the library. But like the garden, the books were swept away. We can´t conjure any of those things back but we can invent this gaze and ask, ¨what does this basket, Occupy´s bonnet, now hold?

From the Lunar Poets Society...

Submitted by Pathi

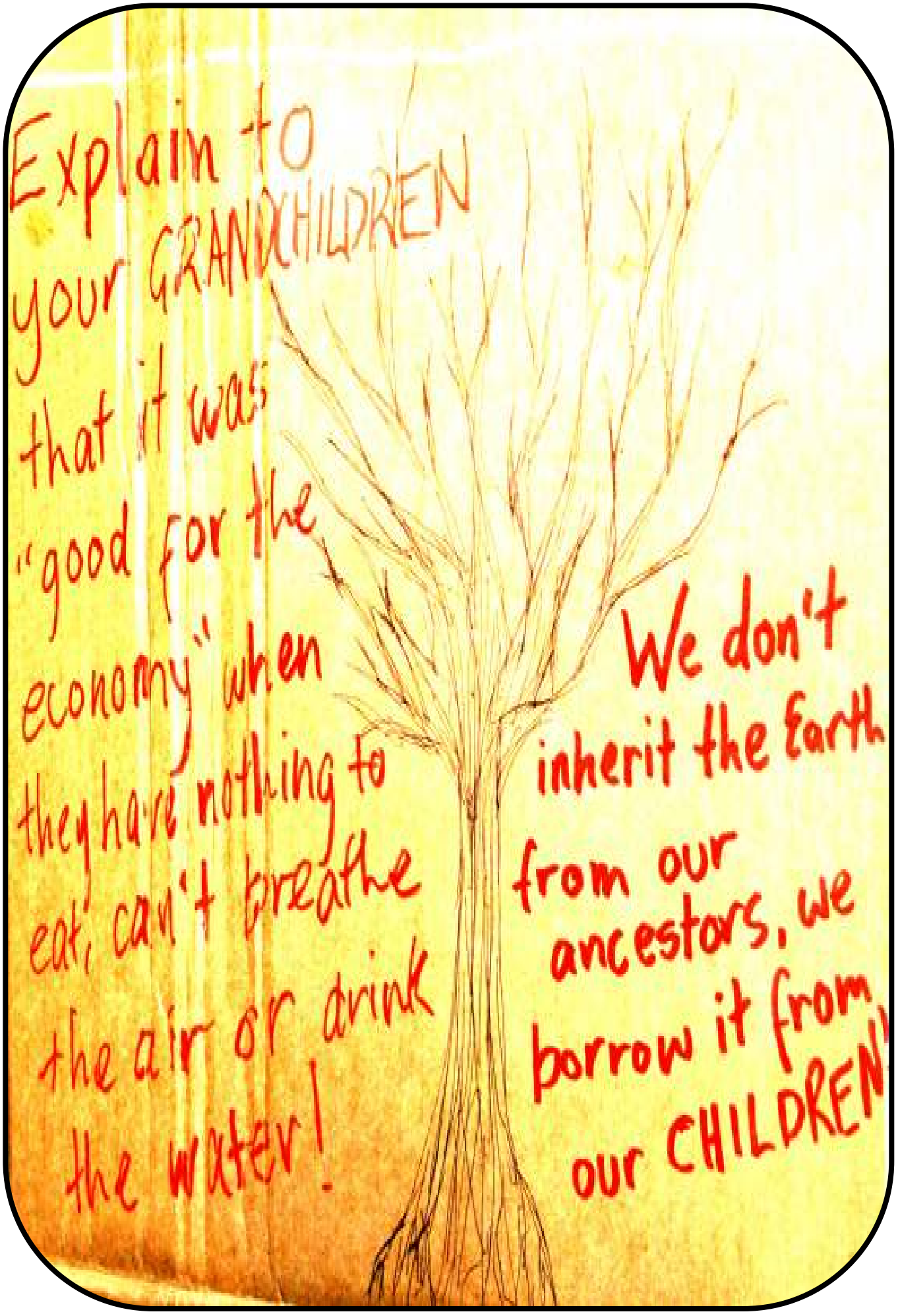

Explain to your GRANDCHILDREN that it was "good for the economy" when they have nothing to eat, can't breathe the air or drink the water!
We don't inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our CHILDREN!

Photo from singsforchange.tumblr.com by Bern Ellis

Upcoming Events

Sat 26 May 2012

1pm Next Occupy Parra freeschool "Workers Rights" Amphitheatre Church St Mall Parramatta

Occupy Parramatta every Saturday Stall from 9am, next organising meeting this Saturday from 1pm Church St Mall Amphitheatre Parramatta.

Sydney

Building Bridges Festival - Gig for Refugees with The Herd, Watussi, Dog Trumpet, Ember and ROSiE

Date: Fri 25 May, 6:00pm - Sat 26 May, 6:00pm

Recently released films from the United States will lead into a feminist discussion on the steps needed for women's liberation. Friday May 25 6pm (cheap meal) and film from 6pm 'Generation M: Misogyny in Media and Culture' Saturday May 26 4pm-6pm 'Tough Guise: Violence, Media & the Crisis in Masculinity' Cheap meal from 7pm, Resistance Centre, 22 Mountain St, Ultimo. Donation entry. Ph: Trick 0414 942 007 Tessa 0422 430 079. A joint film screening between Sydney Feminists and Resistance. www.meetup.com/The-Sydney-Feminists/ http://www.resistance.org.au/

Phone: 0414 942 007

Website: http://www.resistance.org.au/

Seminar: Stop Government Income Management - In Bankstown and everywhere.

Date: Sat 26 May, 1:00pm

Seminar for community and union members. Income management is coming to Bankstown. It is a highly discriminatory and humiliating social policy which 'quarantines' 50-70% of Centrelink payments so that only certain items approve by the government may be purchased. Income Management was first introduced through the federal Intervention in NT Aboriginal communities and is being strongly resisted both in the NT and in Bankstown. Saturday May 26 1pm Arab Council Australia, 194 Stacey Street near Bankstown station. Endorsed by the Canterbury-Bankstown Teachers Federation and the Maritime Union of Australia

Forum: 20 Years on: How Refugee Detention began and why mandatory detention needs to end

Date: Mon 28 May, 6:00pm

Speakers: Nick Poynder (refugee lawyer who challenged mandatory detention in 1992) and Dr. Michael Dudley (Suicide Prevention Australia). This year marks 20 years since the introduction of mandatory detention. Before 1992, refugees who has arrived by boat were not detained. But when Cambodian refugees began arriving in 1989 the Labor government began moving to detain them. In 1992 lawyers including Nick Poynder launched a challenge to the detention of 15 asylum seekers for over two years. To stop this the Keating Labor government passed legislation on May 6 to entrench indefinite detention. This forum will discuss the history of the policy, and how it was not so long ago that mandatory detention did not exist., Teachers Federation building, 23-33 Mary St, Surry Hills (near Central Station). Organised by Refugee Action Coalition Contact 0417 275 713 refugeeaction.org.au

Phone: 0417 275 713

Website: refugeeaction.org.au

Sat 24 June 2012

1pm World Refugee Day @ Sydney Town Hall. To get involved Refugee Action Coalition meets every Monday 6pm @ Teacher Federation 23-33 Mary St Surry Hills

Submitted by Shelly from GreenLeft Weekly

June 2012

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
May 28 6.30pm GA MP	May 29	May 30 6.30pm GA MP Occupy the Courts	May 31	1 Occupy Friday	2 Occupy Parramatta 5.30pm GA MP	3
4 6.30pm GA MP	5	6 6.30pm GA MP	7	8 Occupy Friday	9 Occupy Parramatta Free School MP 5.30pm GA MP	10
11 6.30pm GA MP	12	13 6.30pm GA MP	14	15 Occupy Friday	16 Occupy Parramatta 5.30pm GA MP	17
18 6.30pm GA MP	19	20 6.30pm GA MP	21	22 Occupy Friday	23 Occupy Parramatta Free School MP 5.30pm GA MP	24 World Refugee Day 1pm Town Hall
25 6.30pm GA MP	26	27 6.30pm GA MP	28	29 Occupy Friday	30 Occupy Parramatta 5.30pm GA MP	July 1

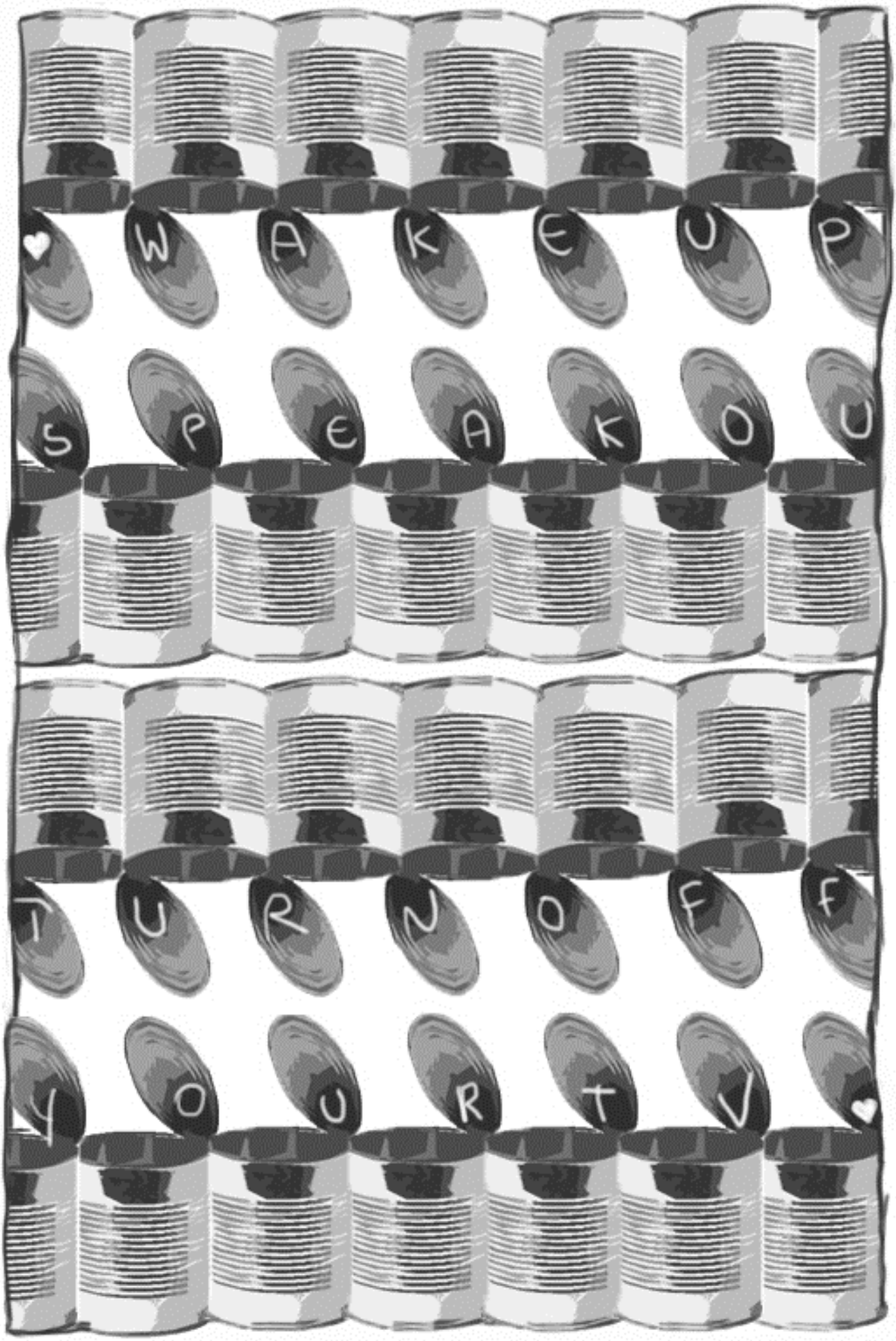


Image by Maloë Cadic